

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 12, 2006. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-28 are in the case.

No claims are currently amended.

No new claims are currently added.

Request for Interview

The Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic interview with the Examiner after the Examiner has had an opportunity to consider this Amendment, but before the issuance of the next Office Action. The Applicant may be reached at 617-951-3074.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 and 15-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0149763A1 to Heitman et al. (hereinafter "Heitman").

Claim 1, representative in part of the other rejected claims sets forth:

1.) A method for verifying a configuration of a storage environment having at least one storage system operatively interconnected with at least one client, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a configuration verification program on at least one client to determine:

(i) **versions of components of the storage environment;**
(ii) configuration settings of components of the storage environment; and

(iii) if one or more components of the storage environment have failed; and
presenting a report to a user identifying a set of warnings and errors with the configuration of the storage environment.

The Examiner erroneously indicated that paragraph 0068 and paragraph 694 of Heitman discloses "initiating a configuration

verification program on at least one client to determine: (i) versions of components of the storage environment...". Contrary to the Examiner's characterization, the referenced portions of Heitman recites:

[0068] In further aspects, the invention provides improvements on a storage area network ("SAN") of the type that includes one or more digital data processors (e.g., the aforementioned hosts) that are coupled for communication with one or more storage devices (e.g., LUNs) over an interconnect. The improvement provides a mechanism for hierarchically displaying, e.g., on the administrator console or other output device, portions of the SAN topology. Particularly, the SAN is divided into segments to facilitate display and, thereby, locating failing devices in the SAN. A graphical user interface displays icons for each SAN and divides the topology into submaps, i.e., a screen that contains icons--where double clicking on an icon will show another submap if the icon is not a leaf node. The SAN is divided into several types of segments: a switch segment contains an icon representing an individual switch and the devices directly connected to the switch; a switch port connected to multiple devices is represented by a loop segment. The segment contains an icon for the switch and the devices.

[0693] WILDCARD_CHARACTER: "*"--the wildcard character is used to allow any value to be valid in a specific character of a parameter string. If there is more than one character in a string that can contain any value to be valid, then there are multiple wildcard characters in the Value string. For example, the following parameter:

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18 <Parameter> <Name>Model</Name> <Value>Silkworm
1!***</Value> </Parameter>.
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[0694] indicates that to match the Model attribute (parameter), a Value string of Silkworm 1000-1999 will be accepted. Any number of control characters can be contained in the wildcard character for a parameter value. However, in order for the wildcard character to work, it should contain at least one control character. For example, "Silkworm 1***" would not work properly. It would only work if the device's model number where the string "Silkworm 1***" which is not what we would expect (1000-1999)...

Applicant respectfully submits that Heitman is silent concerning **“versions of components of the storage environment”** as particularly claimed in each of the independent claims.

Since Heitman does not disclose each and every element of the independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C §102(e) are improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

At page 7 of the Office Action, claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Heitman in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0055932A1 to Brisse (hereinafter “Brisse”). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn for the reasons set forth above.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and accordingly in condition for allowance.

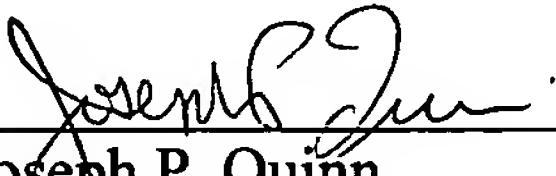
Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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